

INSIDE: 28 PAGES OF COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH!

Norah!
SEE PAGE 5

The Brooklyn Paper

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DOWNTOWN, PARK SLOPE & BAY RIDGE EDITIONS

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Vendors return! Big weekend for Bay Street Latino food stalls



Photo by Stefano Giannone

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

The Red Hook Vendors are back — and a hero has emerged: El Olomega!

The Latino food vendors returned this weekend to Red Hook Park, and people from as far as Manhattan swarmed the sidewalks at Clinton and Bay streets to get the first taste of their favorite tacos, tamales, ceviche, pupusas, huaraches and jugos.

But on opening day, the Salvadoran El Olomega — serving a soft pupusa made famous by Carlos Ayala way back in 1988 — had obviously won over the hearts (and stomachs) of customers.

"These are definitely fresher," said taste-tester Anna McAllister, who said that some of the competition was overpriced and contained pre-made ingredients. "For \$5, they're totally reasonable. [El Olomega] has done a great job with these."

But as good as it is, El Olomega has competition among the trucks lining Bay Street.

Neatly, the Country Boys truck served up some hot, tasty huaraches (\$6). Ana and Victor and Ana's truck was back with queso-covered grilled corn. And another crowd favorite is the unnamed ceviche truck. Go for the shrimp (\$5).

But, really, wait on line for El Olomega. It's worth it.

"Usually, you choose by whichever truck has the longest line," said vendor's regular Dean Medgar. "I've been here for 10 years, and [El Olomega] has the best pupusa and just happens to have the longest line too."

Red Hook Vendors at Red Hook Park (Bay and Clinton streets in Red Hook).



Photo by Stefano Giannone

Prospect Park West features pedestrians, bikers, stroller pushers and speeding cars and trucks. The city says a bike lane, protected by a row of parked cars, is the answer.

City: Bike lane will make Park Slope streets safer

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

City officials shot back at opponents of the controversial Prospect Park West bike lane last Thursday, saying that the two-way protected bike path is all about making Park Slope's notorious speedway safer.

The bike lane, which would run from Grand Army Plaza to Bartel Pritchard Square and require the removal of one lane of southbound car traffic, has enraged some residents because it would cause the removal of 22 parking spaces, result in more congestion from double-parked cars and create a potential hazard for pedestrians not accustomed to looking out for cyclists heading in two directions.

But the city defended its decision, saying that the lane would make Prospect Park West safer — for everyone.

**BIKE LANE
EDITORIAL!
SEE PAGE 10**

"We prioritize safety above other types of considerations," said Josh Benson, director of the Department of Transportation's bicycle program. "Speeding is a problem on that stretch, and we're going to keep people safe."

The current bike lane inside Prospect Park is one-

See **BIKES** on page 12

City to 'Stop the Chop' over Brooklyn Heights

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

The constant rumble of helicopter noise over Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO is over, thanks to a new city ban on sightseeing flights over the entire borough.

The move to bar tourist helicopters comes after months of complaints from Heights residents about chopper noise stemming from a much-used Lower Manhattan heliport.

The new flight plan could eliminate up to 30 percent of those tourism flights — though news and emergency flights will, of course,

continue. Also, helicopters will no longer be allowed to hover below 1,500 feet.

"This solution was a quick effort to deal with the problem," said state Sen. Daniel Squadron (D-Brooklyn Heights), who spearheaded the "Stop the chop" campaign after his office was bombarded with complaints. "It's absolutely a good faith effort, but it's a close watch on the progress and make sure the flight has the desired effect."

The Economic Development Corporation oversees helicopter traffic and negotiated the deal with

several Manhattan sightseeing companies, which take off from a heliport near the South Street Seaport in rapid succession during the day. The agency could not be reached in time for our whirling online deadline.

The whole hubbub began after a heliport on the West Side of Manhattan was closed to tourism flights last year, sending more traffic to the downtown location on the East River. And the opening of Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 1 earlier this year prompted renewed calls for peace and quiet.

Amid the controversy over noise, one problem emerged: Residents

complained that 311 operators were not properly logging noise complaints, resulting in difficulty proving that helicopters were a nuisance.

But the deal calls for a streamlined 311 system to allow complaints to be properly tracked. If the tourism agencies screw up, they'll be fined and may lose their licenses.

In summary, the deal also calls for:

- No short tours: About 20 percent of sightseeing flights are short, four- to eight-minute flights and are "major contributors" to the noise. They've been eliminated.

- No sightseeing over Brooklyn at all, but the Brooklyn Bridge itself was spared the ban.

- New tour routes: Pilots will be forced to take off and land toward the south of the heliport, maximizing their distance from Brooklyn Bridge Park.

- No more gas pains: About 10 percent of flights from the Lower Manhattan pad were simply for refueling purposes. Now, fuel will be available at the heliport.

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FLASHBACK
CHOPPER STOPPERS!
Height battles helicopters
By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper
The city's new ban on sightseeing flights over Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO is a major victory for residents who have long complained about the constant rumble of helicopter noise. The ban, which takes effect this week, will eliminate up to 30 percent of the flights that have plagued the neighborhood for years. The city's new flight plan will require helicopters to fly higher and further south, away from the residential areas. This is a significant step towards reducing the noise and improving the quality of life for residents in the area.

Walmart makes case for fair wages Retailer says salaries are the same as other department stores

By Stephen Witt
The Brooklyn Paper

If Target can do it, so can we. That is the message Walmart sent this week in its latest salvo against unionized labor as part of its advancement in Brooklyn.

"A majority of national retail is non-union," said Steven Restivo, Walmart's director of community affairs. "When you look at retail and what we

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offer employees, we're very competitive to both full-time and part-time workers."

Restivo declined comment on rumors that Walmart would lease space at the planned Gateway II shopping

center at Jamaica Bay, but noted that such chain stores as Target, Walgreens, Best Buy, Home Depot and Lowe's are all non-union.

Target, the country's fifth-largest retail store in sales, is very similar to top retailer Walmart in its merchandise. It has three stores spread strategically across the borough.

This includes a location at the Atlantic Terminal Mall in Fort Greene, a

central Brooklyn location near Brooklyn College at the Flatbush-Nostrand avenues junction, and the Gateway Shopping Center at Jamaica Bay off Shore Parkway at Erskine Street.

Workers at these Target stores said that they enjoy their work, despite starting salaries for part-timers of \$8.50 an hour.

"There are a lot of opportunities. See **WALMART** on page 2

Chicken heads? Blood? Trash? So what! EPA gives Prospect Park cleanliness award despite rampant debris

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Who cares about two months of entrapment, chicken heads, blood-letting and furniture abandonment in the Prospect Park lake — the federal government just gave the park an award for cleanliness!

The top environmental agency in the country doled out an "environmental quality award" to Prospect Park last month — and many parkgoers are as stunned as the day they first laid eyes on that rusty pile of intestines on the edge of the lake.

"It makes me kind of angry," said Diana Zandi, who visits the park daily with her rat terrier, Izzy Louise. "The chicken heads, a TV set [in the lake], the swan that died — it seems really silly they got an award."

"Every time there is a nice day in the park, you can guarantee there will be trash everywhere. I can't let my dog off the leash [during off-leash hours] because she'll eat everything in sight!"

A spokeswoman for the EPA — clearly not one of our readers — was unaware of the many gross-outs that



Prospect Park has just won an award from the Environmental Protection Agency. Perhaps the feds don't know about the entrails, chicken heads, dead animals and, as we saw on Tuesday, plenty of garbage inside the park.

recently occurred at Prospect Park, and quickly pointed out that the praise accompanying the award did not specifically address the lake.

"The things that you described — not only am I not aware of it, but that

type of thing happens," said Caroline Newton, an EPA spokeswoman. "I'm assuming they weren't responsible for it — but that was not related to the award."

The award specifically lauded the

Meadows of SHAME



park's tree-care team, as well as the Audubon Center, which has become a major attraction for families.

A spokesman for Prospect Park, Eugene Patron, said that the award was further proof that the park was healthy — despite numerous claims to the contrary.

"The wildlife is healthy — despite the incidents," said a confident Patron. "When looking at the park holistically, there is no indication that there is any

See **SHAME** on page 12



Photo by Stefano Giannone

Cops arrested a purse-snatcher in a cool sting operation at the Trader Joe's on Court Street in Cobble Hill, the scene of many prior thefts.

COPS STING JOE Bandit nabbed at trendy store

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Cops arrested a thief in a daring stakeout in the aisles of Trader Joe's, the Court Street supermarket that has hosted a rash of purse-snatches this year.

Capt. Kenneth Corey of the 76th Precinct said that his undercover officers pose as shoppers in the popular supermarket a few times per week, but this is the first time that cops nabbed someone for stealing a woman's purse.

"We do it on a regular basis, in many locations where we see increases in crime," Corey said. "Trader Joe's has been a hotspot."

The Hawaiian-themed supermarket, known as much for the frequent robberies as it is for its low-priced, line-caught salmon, has attracted thieves who prey on shoppers as they walk away from their belongings to

peruse the myriad offerings.

But on April 28, one perp's day at the office didn't go as planned.

According to police, two officers fanned out inside the store, with one officer and a sergeant remaining outside. One cop pretended to shop — and then drew away from her cart and the pocketbook on it — while the other officer kept watch from a distance.

At around 2:30pm, a thief grabbed the purse — which contained \$20 — and ran out of the store into a waiting car.

But he didn't get far. The inside officer had already radioed a description of the perp to the outside officer, who moved in quickly and arrested the suspect, who was also in possession of a small quantity of marijuana, which is not sold at the otherwise mel-low supermarket.

See **JOE** on page 2

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EPA invites you to select the facilitator for the Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites you to attend a public information meeting to meet the candidates for the neutral facilitator of the Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group.

Tuesday, May 11, 2010
from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
in the auditorium of
P.S. 32
located at
317 Hoyt Street, Brooklyn, NY

Here is an opportunity to hear what the candidates have to say, ask questions and decide whom you would like to facilitate the initial formation and operation of the Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group

For more information about the meeting or other site related issues you can contact:

Natalie Loney
Community Involvement Coordinator
loney.natalie@epa.gov
(212) 637-3639 or 1-800-346-5009

Christos Tsiamis
Remedial Project Manager
tsiamis.christos@epa.gov
(212) 637-4257

Information about the candidates is available at:
www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/gowanus/cag.html

Superfunds!

City, National Grid sign on dotted line to pay for feds' Gowanus Canal cleanup

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

The city and National Grid are now officially on the hook for the clean-up of the Gowanus Canal, the federal government announced last week.

The agreement between the polluters of "Lavender Lake" and the Environmental Protection Agency marks the first formal commitments under the Superfund process — and is expected to be the first of many such deals with other polluters, a list that also includes the U.S. Navy and Con Ed.

Under the deal, the city and National Grid will pay to dig 14 wells "that would allow us to sample the ground water," said EPA spokesman Elias Rodriguez. "The water, which makes its way into the canal, may be contributing to the contamination."

In addition to underwriting the cost of the 20- to 50-foot-deep wells, the polluters will fund the scientific work involved in supervising the sites. There's no estimate of the cost of this phase of the work because Superfund is a "pay-as-you-go" process.

Rodriguez added that the collection phase should start this month and be finished around August.

The locations of the wells read like a polluter's stamping grounds: the Hamilton Avenue Asphalt Plant, the former Fulton Street coal gasification plant on First Street, and the old Brooklyn Rapid Transit Power Station at Smith and Ninth streets.

There will be more locations and more wells in



the coming months, Rodriguez said.

It's a fast start to a long process. Indeed, it was only last month that the feds finally gave the Gowanus the Superfund stamp, setting in motion a 10- to 12-year process that promises to rid the canal of the deadly contaminants, such as coal tar and toxic metals that have made the sediment a volatile sludge that can eat through industrial plastic pipes.

The feds are in the process of collecting data, which should conclude by the end of the year. Then, all of 2012 will be devoted to selecting a plan of attack for the clean-up. By the end of 2014, the plan will be designed, and then the EPA can actually begin to dredge the canal and alleviate sources of contamination — a process that should take five years or so.

Interestingly, the EPA has noticed some strange goings on at the canal as of late — if a recent press release from the agency is to be believed.

"The contamination poses a threat to the nearby residents who use the canal for fishing," the release read.

A note to the desk jockeys in Washington: No one does that in Brooklyn — a process that should take five years or so.

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CESSPOOL: The Gowanus Canal fills with debris (we're talking feces here, folks) after heavy rains.

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JOE

Continued from page 1

"We have to wait for him to leave the store," Corey said. "Otherwise, he could say, 'I was just going to return it to the cashier.'"

And a small amount of cash is secreted in the purse so that cops can book the thief for a crime.

The ongoing stings have netted a variety of shoplifters, but this is the first burglar, Corey added.

There have been at least four such crimes at Trader Joe's this year — which the top cop partly attributed to the relaxing feeling that the store gives its customers.

"I've been in there myself and there's a high comfort level," he said. "In other stores, people clutch their bags like they're an infant, but at Trader Joe's, they don't watch so closely."

"People walk away from their bags for 10 minutes, even," he added.

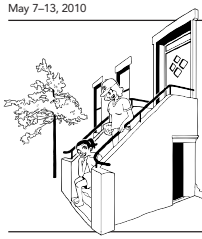


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THE SLOP

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

BOERUM HILL



LIGHT BRIGADE: Ariana MacPherson (left) and Elizabeth Crowell want to create an Atlantic Avenue Business Improvement District as a way of saving replica street lamps in Boerum Hill.

Atlantic to go dark?

City to landowners: BID to get the antique lamps

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

Dark days are ahead for some Atlantic Avenue business owners if they don't agree to tax themselves: the city will take the pretty lights away.

After years of debate over who would pay for the Victorian-style lamp-posts that line the avenue's sidewalks, the Department of Transportation gave the community an ultimatum: we will take away the antique-style lights unless merchants create a Business Improvement District—which would charge local businesses a yearly fee that would pay for projects like the maintenance of the posts.

"They're holding the historic lights hostage!" said Elizabeth Crowell, co-chair of the Atlantic Avenue BID Steering Committee. "Right now, we have the lighting, but nobody has paid for their maintenance in many years."

The city confirmed the good and the bad news: The lights are on the chopping block, but they're safe for now because the proposed BID includes a budget item for the lights' maintenance.

On the other hand, if Crowell can't convince businesses to form the BID, the city will rip up the lights.

A business improvement district is a quasi-public, self-taxing entity that supplements such city services as sanitation and security.

CONEY ISLAND

Looks Sitty!

Critics slam Joe's plans

By Joe Maniscalco
The Brooklyn Paper

Coney Island is gearing up for a summer of new rides and circus attractions, but the neighborhood's main private landowner is instead tearing down historic buildings—including the place where Harpo Marx made his comic debut—and replacing them with a temporary fast-food stand.

The turn-of-the-last-century buildings facing the wrecking ball include the Grashers Building, the Henderson Music Hall and the Surf Hotel located between Stillwell Avenue and Henderson Walk.

"This summer is going to be about the demolition," said Thor Equities spokesperson Loren Riegelhaupt,

claiming that the ramshackle structures are filled with asbestos.

Riegelhaupt said that Thor Equities must clear the land now in order to have new retail shops open for the 2011 summer season.

It is unclear what shops Thor is proposing, rendering last put out by the company last week shows a burger outlet and a fast-food stand.

The demolition work is what Thor Equities calls the "restructuring" of its long-standing Coney Island ambitions.

Though the rendering shows only a one-story structure, the land was rezoned last year for high-rise hotels—which Thor CEO Joe Sitt has promised to build once the city fixes the ancient in-

CARROLL GARDENS

Reality TV saves the old Vermont Market

By Gary Buisio
The Brooklyn Paper

It was back to the future this week in Carroll Gardens, as a 1920s-era pharmacy was renovated courtesy of the magic of television, a reawakening of a Henry Street relic that has stood tall for over a decade.

On Tuesday, crews from the Discovery Channel reality show, "Construction Intervention," were finishing up the final touches on the four-day restoration of the old Vermont Market and Pharmacy, transforming it into Brooklyn Farmacy and readying for the "big reveal" to owner Pecky Freeman.

In the case of Vermont Market, Frattini said the project presented a major structural challenge, as the building's horizontal support beams had been eaten away by termites.

"We had to replace every one of them," he said. After that, the job became a restoration project, as workers hurried to bring back the original luster to the floor's penny tiling, fix damaged portions of the tin ceiling, and restore the oak paneling, shelving and drawers that give the place an anach-



Workers from the Discovery Channel transformed the old Vermont Market and Pharmacy, a quirky Henry Street spot that rarely opened, into Farmacy this week.

ronistic charm. From the look of things, the show did the old Longo pharmacy, its original incarnation, proud.

Polished soda fountains stand at the ready, while an old nickel scale stands guard near the door, anticipating patrons to enliven this veritable museum. In the back of the shop, beyond the oak bar and past a fully functional dumbwaiter, a Depression-era jukebox buttresses a wall. An array of dusty tins and

bottles holding all manner of pharmacological powder and potion—once vital healing aids—now serve as authentic decoration.

In October, the long-shuttered shop opened for a day, a tantalizing glimpse of things to come for a store that is basically a "museum" of the history of Carroll Gardens, said Janella Fortio, the show's executive producer.

"We loved the idea of helping to bring it back to the people," she said.

Residents cheered the \$450,000 renovation.

"This will provide something the community will both deserve and appreciate," said Ima Bransome, who lives above the Farmacy.

"I will now live in a building that is not an eyesore, but rather a place that people will gather around and enjoy."

Along with egg creams and other shady concoctions, the shop is expected to sell organic, local produce.

GREENPOINT

Bklyn Kickball is back!

Here's your handy preview for the sport of Kings

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Kickball returned to the dusty ballfields and bright overhead lights of McCarren Park on Sunday night, as 32 teams kicked each other's butts on the road to a championship.

The eighth annual Opening Day festivities were capped off by a rematch of last year's epic final round series between The Johnnycigar Mellicamps and runner-up, Never Scared.

On Sunday, Never Scared earned its revenge, winning handily, 11-3.

Not that the former champions seemed all too worried. "Our goal was to look good and have fun, so it doesn't matter if we won or lost," said captain Paul Cougar Mellicamp.

Still, Never Scared, which many kickball enthusiasts pick as the favorites to hoist the 2010 Chuck D. trophy, is hungry after finishing so



Can anyone beat Zeus's Beard? Well, yes, but don't tell them.

close last year. Sunday's resounding victory was a critical step towards its drive to win the title.

The New Frontiersmen, led by Matt "Tiger" Salewitz, boast a competitive squad of kickers, but the team dropped its first game to Brooklyn United, 4-8, in a late-inning rally.

The Bacon Bits should also be in the mix this year, after taking the title in its

first season two years ago. The defense-heavy Bits are among the best fielders in the league, but they must find a way to score.

And don't count out the Crucial Taunts, which wrapped up a quick opening day victory. The keys to advancing far in the playoffs, according to captain "Hey" Kate Brown is "gym tanning, and laundry," and keeping the roster together through a season with many bachelor parties and weddings.

But the Mellicamps don't share Brown's aesthetic philosophy for victory.

"We are wearing the same exact outfit that we wore from last year's final," said outfielder Angelique Everett, who could not confirm whether her teammates did their laundry.

Brooklyn Kickball League at McCarren Park (Driggs Avenue at N. 14th Street in Greenpoint), Sundays 5-11 pm through September.

thoroughly reviewed by the city [before] last year's rezoning and determined to have no significant historic value whatsoever," said Stefan Friedman, another Thor spokesman. "Some of these buildings are a very real risk to the local community."

But some say Sitt is the greater risk, given his history.

Joe Sitt's record has been one of demolition and leaving a hole in the ground, and not building what he says he's going to build," said Juan Rivero, spokesman for Save Coney Island, a group that favors a larger amusement area than the city proposes to build.

Sitt, who in several years as Coney Island's, Thor has done little except boot Astroland. Thor's previous attempts to maintain foot traffic in Coney Island include last year's "Festival by the Sea," a failed flea market on Stillwell Avenue, shuttering Boardwalk businesses, a five-day circus, and a collection of rides that didn't even last the full summer.

Preservationists had hoped to include the sites in a newly created "historic corridor" along Surf Avenue, but the city denied any historical significance to the buildings.

"These buildings were

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Carroll Gardens

Cobble Hill–Red Hook

A thug who had just gotten out of prison got himself sent back up the river for breaking into a car the very next day.

Cops said they saw the perp busting open the window of a car that had been parked near the corner of Union and Hicks streets at around 1 p.m. on April 24. Officer Ken Cunningham quickly nabbed the perp — whose prior record indicated that he had only been released from jail on another burglary charge the night before.

Batter up

A man pummeled another man with a baseball bat on Hamilton Avenue on April 23, but didn't get too many swings in before he was arrested.

Cops said they witnessed the 49-year-old using the baseball bat in an unorthodox manner against his 23-year-old victim near the McDonald's at Smith Street at around 9:25 a.m.

Crash course

A drunk driver barreled into a front yard on Columbia Street on April 23 and was arrested after a desperate run to evade cops.

Police said that a witness saw the driver smash his Nissan into a fence near Baltic Street at around 11:30 p.m. — and then get into an argument with the homeowner over who was going to pay for the damage.

As police cruisers arrived, the wobbly 21-year-old took off running, but was quickly

caught by the sober officers. He stunk of cheap booze, but refused to take a field sobriety test. He later admitted to downing two shots earlier in the night, cops said.

Wrong aid

Say one thing about this thug: He's into personal hygiene.

Cops arrested a man for swiping 12 bottles of Dove body wash from the Rite Aid drugstore on Smith Street on April 24.

Acting on an employee tip, Officer Timothy Wolsko made the arrest at around 10:50 a.m., while the clean-minded thief was still in the store, which is near President Street.

Sour time

A thug broke into the Sweet Melissa bake shop on Court Street late on April 29, grabbing the cash register, but he fled before he could get it open.

Cops say that the thief entered through the basement of the beloved patisserie near Butler Street at around 11:45 p.m., and grabbed the register. But before he could open it, he was spotted by the approach of an employee.

Big burg

A thief got away with \$4,000 and two laptops from a Henry Street apartment during the day on April 29.

The 31-year-old resident of the unit, which is between Fourth Place and Laquer Street, told cops that she was not home between 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., when she returned to find the missing property.

Moonshiner

A thief took credit cards out of a bargee's bag at the Columbia Street joint Moonshine on April 26, cops said.

The 24-year-old victim told police that she was at the bar, which is at Hamilton Avenue, at around 2 a.m. When she tried to pay for a drink, she noticed that her bag had been pilfered.

School dazed

Nearly \$2,000 was stolen from a filing cabinet inside a Henry Street school on April 29.

A teacher at PS 146 told cops that someone broke into the locked cabinet in the school near Hamilton Avenue at around 3:15 p.m. and took \$1,900 from a pouch. The crime was all captured on camera, but the thief has not been caught in real life.

Fed up

A thief swiped the bag from the shoulder of a woman on W. Ninth Street on April 27.

The 41-year-old victim told cops that she had just gotten off the F train at Smith Street at around 9:40 p.m. and was walking home when she was grabbed from behind and took the bag.

Jewel jacker

A perp stole an entire display case containing \$8,000 worth of rings from an Atlantic Avenue jewelry store on April 30.

The store owner told cops that the thief entered the store, which is on the corner of S. Ellet Place, at around 4 p.m. and escaped with a customer's purse at the store.

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

The victim told police that she only bent down for a second at around 6:10 p.m. on May 1 to find the nail polish she wanted, but when she stood up her \$350 purse was missing from her cart.

There's a crime virtually every week at the crowded mall.

Chuck E. Cheat

In a related story, a crook stole the purse from a customer at the Chuck E. Cheese restaurant inside the Atlantic Terminal Mall on April 27.

The victim told police that her purse, which contained her iPhone, must have been nabbed at around 9:15 p.m. while she was distracted at the fun zone.

Desk-top dash

A perp entered a Carlton Avenue apartment and stole a computer on April 27.

The victim told cops that she left her apartment, which is at Myrtle Avenue, at around 9:15 a.m. But when she got home at around 6:30 p.m., she noticed that the Mac desktop unit was missing.

Tourist trick

A thief grabbed cash from a tourist's purse shortly after she got on the Q train at the Atlantic Avenue stop on April 30.

The victim, who is visiting from Israel, said the perp must have reached into her bag while she was on the train at around 5:30 p.m., but she didn't notice anyone bump into her during the ride.

— Claire Glass

NABBED!

Precinct C.O. makes collar in Slope

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper

Robberies are getting so bad in Park Slope that the 78th Precinct's top cop may have to get back on the street himself.

A permanent demotion is certainly in order after the events of April 21, when Deputy Inspector John Argenziano nailed three young perps who robbed victims in separate incidents, one in the vicinity of Fourth Avenue and Nevins Street, in the neighboring 84th Precinct, and another closer to home in Park Slope, where the terrible trio snatched a cellphone.

"Who happened to working that night?" Me, "boasted Argenziano, who recently celebrated his third anniversary as the precinct's commanding officer."

Argenziano's street smarts played a role, but in the end, it was the fashion sense of one of the suspects that doomed the trio.

"The description came over the radio

that one of them was wearing a purple shirt and a purple hat," Argenziano said.

The ostentatious color combination made identifying the suspects easy, he continued.

"We see three guys walking down the block, and one of them looked like Barney," he recalled, a reference to the anthropomorphic purple dinosaur that is beloved by children and hated by their parents.

The trio — two 15-year-olds and a 17-year-old with prior robbery collars — was arrested without incident.

That was the good news. The bad news is that robberies are up 18.2 percent this year in the precinct, which covers Park Slope. There have been 39 incidents reported through April 18 this year, compared to 33 for the same period last year.

Overall, reported crime is down about one percent, police records show.

90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg–Bushwick

Surf's up!

Snoekler strikes again! A thief in a snorkel mask yanked away his victim's phone as he was walking on Metropolitan Avenue early on April 29.

The victim was near Olive Street at around 2:45 a.m. and was then taken out of the hooded jacket and that diving mask, approached and snatched his phone. The victim ran after the Jacques Cousteau wannabe, but he

had lost his phone by the time he reached the police station.

Churched church

An unholy thief broke into a church on Johnson Avenue and stole the cash in the collection plate, surely earning him a spot in a hot place for all eternity.

The thief entered the Most Holy Trinity Center near Graham Avenue between 5:40 p.m. on April 29 and 8:20 a.m. the next morning, snagging two cameras and \$650 before the friars noticed it was missing.

House break

A sneaky thief broke into a building on Heyward Street overnight on April 30, taking some cash before running away.

The perp entered through a third-floor window in the apartment off Bedford Avenue between 8 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. the next night, before taking \$375 and heading out.

Property sharks

Two wily thieves broke into a car on S. Fourth Street on May 1 and stole enough clothes and jewelry to open their own flea market.

The thieves smashed open a Ford Explorer's side door between 1:40 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. and took \$347 worth of earrings, clothes, and electronics while the victims were at a friend's house.

Motobegone

A thief stole a chopper from S. First Street on April 30.

The victim parked his Triumph motorbike on May 1 and stole enough clothes and jewelry to open their own flea market.

Cammy canvass

A thief snatched a car from Ross Street overnight on April 29.

The victim parked the Toyota sedan between Bedford and Wythe avenues at 11 p.m. and returned at 1 p.m. the next day to find it gone.

Pontiac poach

A bike enthusiast parked his Pontiac motorcycle on Driggs Avenue on April 26, but a perp grabbed it and rode away.

The victim parked his chopper near S. Third Street at 5 p.m., but returned 14 hours later to find it gone.

Chop-stick up

A thug held up a delivery boy on Berry Street on April 25, taking \$60, but leaving the chow mein and, eventually, losing his freedom.

Laptop gone

A burglar broke into a Union Avenue apartment on April 25 and swiped a high-end laptop.

The victim's \$2,500 computer was the only thing missing from the apartment when she returned at 8:15 p.m. to the unit, which is between Ainslie and Hope streets.

— Aaron Short

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

Purse swipe

A thief swiped a woman's purse while she partied late at night at the Liki Lounge on April 26.

10TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg–Bushwick

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— Aaron Short

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights

Ring swipe

Sometimes cleanliness isn't next to godliness. It's next to foolishness.

A woman lost two pricey rings when she took them off to wash her hands at a Fourth Avenue Chinese restaurant between 100th and 101st streets and then promptly forgot about them.

Busy burglars

At least two apartments were raided in Bay Ridge last week. Here's the rundown:

Someone broke into a Third Avenue apartment on April 26, taking over \$3,250 in jewelry and electronics. Police said that the perp entered the fourth floor apartment between Bay Ridge Avenue and 68th Street sometime after 9 a.m. after forcing open

bedroom window.

A bottle of Oxycontin was among the items taken from a Bay Ridge Parkway apartment as the 63-year-old tenant ran to the bank. Cops were told that the thief crept through a bedroom window sometime between 11:40 a.m. and 1:40 p.m., taking the pharmaceuticals, a laptop computer, a digital camera, some jewelry and a watch.

Amped up

A thief broke into a 2000 Yukon parked on 88th Street and Seventh Avenue on April 28, removing two amplifiers.

Police said that a speaker box and some other hardware were removed from the vehicle with remarkable precision — when the truck's owner showed up on 10:46 a.m., he didn't find his window broken, just open slightly.

— Thomas Tracy

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint–Williamsburg

Bank foible

A lone would-be thief failed at holding up the Polish Slavic Credit Union on McGuinness Boulevard on April 29.

A clerk told police that the no-brain thief entered the bank, which is near Norman Avenue, at about 1:20 p.m., holding a note that said, "Give me \$7,000. Now." The clerk hesitated when she saw that no weapons were involved, and the thug fled in a hurry without his payday.

In the act

A jerk was caught drilled-handed on May 1, trying to steal an assortment of power tools from a Diamond Street home.

The homeowner told police that he left the door unlocked at about 7:40 a.m. for a repairman, who was supposed to fix a window at the apartment near Nassau Avenue. The sneaky perp used the opportunity to walk in, apparently unaware that the victim was at home. The man walked into the bathroom where he found the perp, who fled with a drill.

Peek-a-boo!

Five ruffians attacked and attempted to rob a biking deliveryman on Lorimer Street on April 30.

The food purveyor was riding near Bayard Street at about 12:10 p.m. when a woman jumped from behind a cart to scare him, and then signaled her accomplices. When the deliveryman stopped, five men jumped from behind the cart and beat him senseless, then emptied his pockets — only to find them empty. They fled down Lorimer Street with nothing but bloodied hands.

McBoozled!

Some jerk — possibly an employee — stole \$1,500 from the safe inside a Manhattan Avenue McDonald's on April 27.

A manager called police when she arrived at 6 a.m. to find that the store at Greenpoint Avenue had been pilfered. The thieves had gone through the store's safe — which was already broken — a fact that employees knew — and took the cash along with some checks. What's worse, the perps disabled the store's cameras, leading the manager to believe the culprit may have been an employee.

Everyone is a suspect, including the Hamburglar.

Stolen laptop

A brute demolished several locks and stole some valuables from a Metropolitan Avenue apartment on April 28.

The victim and his girlfriend arrived at the house, which is near Manhattan Avenue, at about 9 a.m. to find three locks on the front door smashed and the place had been ransacked. Worse, \$4,500 in a laptop and jewelry were stolen.

— Andy Campbell



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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

May 7-May 13, 2010

Norah & more

The 'Celebrate Brooklyn' sked is out — so set your calendar

By Meredith Deliso
Community Newspaper Group

Y our summer is set — the schedule for Celebrate Brooklyn is here.

The annual festival of free music, film and dance at the Prospect Park bandshell kicks off on June 9 with a show by Grammy Award-winner Norah Jones.

The Cobble Hill resident has a tough act to follow; last year's opener with David Byrne drew roughly 27,000 people — the largest audience in the history of the outdoor series.

"That was unprecedented and absolutely fantastic on every level," said Jack Walsh, festival producer and the director of performing arts programs for BRIC Arts Media Bklyn, the outstanding arts group with the awkwardly typeset name that runs Celebrate Brooklyn.

"How do you top that? We've thought about that, and the thing is not to try," Norah Jones' opening for this season is going to be a different show. She has great new material, as well as some old hits.

Walsh tried to get Jones to play the festival before she made it big with 2002's "Come Away with Me," without any luck. When he approached her about doing a free show as a gift to the community that she lives in, "She immediately said yes," said Walsh.

Other highlights of the three-month festival come from other big names like Sonic Youth (July 21), lesser-known acts such as Meta & the Cornerstones (July



Photo by Martin Schwartz

17), a Brooklyn-based reggae group, and rising Brooklyn soul stars Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings (Aug. 7). As in previous years, the festival will also feature film screenings paired with live music, including the classic horror film "House of 999" (Aug. 6), which is getting a new score from Prospect Heights-based indie jazz pianist Marco Benevento. The eclectic mix will also feature comedy from the always irreverent Eugene Mirman (June 17) and dance from choreographer Zvi Gotheiner (July 1).

"We really try to create a mix that has something for everyone," said Walsh. "This is the granddaddy of this type of thing. It's what's great about living in Brooklyn in the summer."

And, of course, Celebrate Brooklyn needs to pay some bills, so there are four ticketed concerts throughout the summer, including Passion Pit (June 29 — sold out), Rufus Wainwright (July 20), The National and Beach House (July 27 — sold out), and The Dead Weather (Aug. 3).

MUSIC

Celebrate Brooklyn at the Prospect Park Bandshell (Fourth Street and Prospect Park West in Park Slope, 718) 855-7882. For info, visit www.celebratebrooklyn.org.

Norah Jones (above) kicks off Celebrate Brooklyn with a free show on June 9. Kim Gordon (left) and her bandmates in Sonic Youth will rock the band shell on July 31.

Now, celebrate!

Here it is, folks, the full schedule for "Celebrate Brooklyn," the summer concert and arts series, produced by BRIC Arts Media Bklyn. All concerts (except for benefits below) are at the bandshell in Prospect Park (entrance at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street) and are free (\$3 suggested contribution):

Norah Jones

Wednesday, June 9, 8 pm

Allen Toussaint / Daveell Crawford

Saturday, June 12, 7:30 pm

Eugene Mirman & Pretty Good Friends

Thursday, June 17, 7:30 pm

JQ Thirlwell's Steroid Maximus

Friday, June 18, 7:30 pm

Bitches Brew Revisited

Featuring Graham Haynes, James Blood Ulmer, Marco Benevento, DJ Logic, Lonnie Plaxico and Cindy Blackman / Mike Stern Trio

Saturday, June 19, 7:30 pm

Orquesta Buena Vista Social Club

Nelida Tirado

Thursday, June 24, 7:30 pm

Kid Koala

Short Attention Span Audio Theater vs. The Slew / Hess Is More

Friday, June 25, 7:30 pm

Texas Tornados

The Red Clay Ramblers

Saturday, June 26, 7:30 pm

Zoom: Evidance

Son Lux with Lotdance

Thursday, July 1, 8 pm

The Fab 5 / Uzalo

Friday, July 2, 7:30 pm

Itutu: Armitage Goni Dance

Featuring Burkina Electric

Thursday, July 8, 8 pm



And now, a toast: Irreverent comedian Eugene Mirman comes to the bandshell with some friends on June 17.

Ozomatli

Fidel Nadal / Toy Selectah

Friday, July 9, 7 pm

The Roots / Talib Kweili

Sahr Ngajiah, Bajah + The Dry Eye Crew, Blitz the Ambassador and more

Sunday, July 11, 4 pm

African Festival

Konono No. 1, Omar Pene & Super Diamono, Chiwoniso, Meta & The Cornerstones and Djara

Saturday, July 17, 2-9 pm

The Chaplin Mutuals

Live scores by Carl Davis / The Two Man Gentlemen Band

Thursday, July 22, 7:30 pm

Bomba Estéreo

La Setta Allstar / Rita Indiana

Friday, July 23, 7 pm

Field of Dreams (Un Mundo Nuevo)

Andres Levin & The Bruce High Quality Foundation

Saturday, July 24, 4 pm

MIZ: Mother India 21st Century Remix

Live score by DJ Tigerstyle / Falu

Thursday, July 29, 8 pm

The Swell Season

The Low Anthem

Friday, July 30, 7:30 pm

Sonic Youth

Grass Widow / Talk Normal

Saturday, July 31, 7 pm

Metrie

Joan as Police Woman / Holly Miranda

Thursday, Aug. 5, 7 pm

House of Usher

Live score by Marco Benevento / White Magic

Friday, Aug. 6, 7:30 pm

Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings

Budos Band and more

Saturday, Aug. 7, 7 pm

Brady Rymer

Elizabeth Mitchell

Sunday, Aug. 8, 4 pm

Benefit concerts

Passion Pit

Tuesday, June 29, Sold out.

Rufus Wainwright

Tuesday, July 20

The National

Beach House

Tuesday, July 27, Sold out.

The Dead Weather

Tuesday, Aug. 3

CINEMA

Films on 5th

Dinner and a movie just got easy. Park Slope's Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District has revolutionized this classic dating staple with its "Films on Fifth 2010" series.



From now until May 10, 20 films lensed by Brooklyn movie makers will be viewed at various locations along Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, from bars to restaurants to the Old Stone House.

Irene LoRe, owner of Aunt Suzie's Restaurant between Carroll and Garfield streets, said that the films, which include the documentary "Pstar Rising," about a 9-year-old rapper's relationship with her father, and the stickball mockumentary "When Broomsticks Were King" by Park Slope native Jason Cusato, are "absolutely stupendous."

It'll be the cheapest night out on record. Just don't let your date know. "Films on Fifth 2010" at participating locations along Fifth Avenue between Deane and 18th streets in Park Slope through May 10. All films begin at 7 pm and are free with a \$10 minimum purchase. For info, visit www.caslo.slopeoffthavenuebid.com. — Thomas Tracy

THEATER

Holy trinity!



A church is the most natural — and most unlikely — setting for playwright Sarah Ruhl's triptych, "Passion Play."

Natural because the play explores the staging of the story of Jesus's death and supposed resurrection; unlikely because of its critical examination of Christian paganism.

That should make the New York premiere of Ruhl's play all the more intriguing when it opens on May 12 at the Irondale Center. The ambitious "Passion Play" is comprised of three connected works, spanning 400 years and three countries, from Queen Elizabeth's England to Hitler's Germany to Reagan-era South Dakota.

In "Passion Play," Ruhl explores the devotional tradition while touching on homosexuality, anti-Semitism, war and race, a la "Angels in America" (there's even a flying angel). There's a lot going on — hence the play's three-and-a-half-hour runtime — so if you need some reinforcements, there will be bread and wine served during intermission, from optional.

"Passion Play" at the Irondale Center [85 S. Oxford St. near Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, 718] 486-9233. May 12-30. Tickets \$22.50-42.50. — Meredith Deliso

ART

Front lines

The New York Photo Festival may be a spotlight on new photography, but this year's highlight is images that still burn 50 years after the fact.

From May 13 to 16, French photographer Marc Garanger's photographs of Algerian women, taken during the country's War of Independence, will be on view in DUMBO.

The photographs were not any act of artistic anthropology; rather, Garanger took them under order by the French Army to serve as identity cards for Algerian women, who were forced to remove their veils and show their faces in public, often for the first time. The results, such as a woman in braids looking straight at the camera, are haunting.

"[Garanger's] extraordinary photographs show the women's defiance, sense of betrayal, vulnerability, and enormous strength," said Ritchin. "As such they become a revealing marker in the clash of civilizations that continues, and even intensifies, today."

New York Photo Festival at St. Ann's Warehouse [38 Water St. between Dock and Main streets in DUMBO, 718] 254-8799. May 13-16. — Meredith Deliso

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HERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY
May 8

Ursine rock!
Our favorite teen punk rock trio, Care Bears On Fire, will storm Red Hook and question authority with their aggressive jams such as "Barbie Eat a Sandwich" and "Super Teen." Since blasting onto the nascent Park Slope punk scene years ago, the teenagers have played Letterman and toured the east coast. Go see to the show so you can say you saw them before the inevitable sell-out.

8 pm, "Care Bears On Fire" at Made An Art Gallery 53 Richards St. near Commerce Street in Red Hook; www.madeanart.com.

SUNDAY
May 9

Name that sheep!
Time to nurture your inner agrarian and name a pair of new critters in the Prospect Park Zoo. Two adorable 11-month-old lambs will be making their debut, and it is the solemn duty of zoo-goers to give them cute names. Meanwhile, the grown-up sheep and alpacas will be getting their summer haircut as part of the annual "Fleece Festival."

11 am-4 pm, "The Fleece Festival" at the Prospect Park Zoo 450 Flatbush Ave. between Empire Boulevard and Eastern Parkway; (718) 399-7339.

8 pm, "Care Bears On Fire" at Made An Art Gallery 53 Richards St. near Commerce Street in Red Hook; www.madeanart.com.

TUESDAY
May 11

Right thing
Revisit Spike Lee's classic depiction of racial strife in 1989 Bedford-Stuyvesant in the new documentary, "Making Do the Right Thing." Featuring Danny Aiello, Melvin Van Peebles and Ossie Davis, the doc chronicles Lee's best film, which was shot on Stuyvesant Avenue.

possibly the most important block in Brooklyn film history. 7 pm, "Making Do the Right Thing" at Restoration Plaza 1368 Fulton St. at Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant; (718) 636-6996. Tickets \$5.

THURSDAY
May 13

Live'n' on the edge
The "edgy moms" of Brooklyn are back — and you can thank our own Smartmom — who puts together the who's-who of cutting edge matrons of the mothering scene. The gathering, which includes legendary former Brooklyn Paper columnist Wendy Ponte (pictured), is sure to provoke while reaffirming the joys of motherhood in all its forms.

8 pm, "Edgy moms" at the Old Stone House 1336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope; (718) 768-3195.

FRIDAY
May 14

Sonic boom
Friend of the paper and music legend Danny Kalb will bring his awesome sound to Two Boots — a perfect venue for the crooner's blues and rock. Kalb started the groundbreaking Blues Project in the 1960s, which established the quintessential psychedelic-blues-folk sound — and now he lives right next door in Park Slope. After the gig, ask Kalb about the time Bob Dylan slept on his couch.

10 pm, Danny Kalb at Two Boots 214 Second St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Park Slope; (718) 499-3253.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, MAY 7

THEATER, "THE VIGIL OR THE GUIDED CRADLE": A play about torture. 5:30 pm, The Back 55 Metropolitan Ave. between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street in Williamsburg; (212) 352-3101; www.bricktheater.com.

BKLYN DESIGNS: Annual exhibition of the finest Brooklyn-based furniture designers. 10 am-5 pm, St. Ann's Warehouse 38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO; (718) 264-8779; www.stannwarehouse.org.

ART OPENING: Works by Brooklyn College MFA Thesis students. Free. 6-9 pm, Williamsburg Art & Historical Center 135 Broadway at 5, Sixth Street in Williamsburg; (718) 486-6073; www.washcenter.org.

DANCE, "RUN UP WALLS": Dancers dodge under blocks, fly through the air and, as the name suggests, run up walls in the Streb company's latest. \$20 (adults), \$10 (kids). 7 pm, STREB Lab for Action Mechanics 51 N. First St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg; (718) 384-6491; www.streb.org.

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: One World Symphony vocal artists perform Leo Janacek's "The Cunning Little Visions." \$40 (\$30 senior and student). 8 pm, St. Ann's Church 157 Montague St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights; (718) 707-1411.

COMEDY NIGHT: Hosted by Nick Turner (College Humor) and Jason Seane (JCC Comedy Festival). Free. 8 pm, Cocola 36 Greenpoint Ave. between Franklin and West streets in Greenpoint; (718) 627-6545; www.mypage.com/cocola.

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: Selections from Debussy and Ravel. 8:30 pm, Bergamusic 157 Fulton St. at Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO; (718) 624-2083; www.bergamusic.org.

MUSIC, QADA & LEVANTINE INDULGENCE: Free. 9 pm, BAM Cafe 130 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene; (718) 230-4100; www.bam.org.

MUSIC, ANDY FRIEDMAN & NATALIA ZUKERMAN: Folk. \$12 (\$10 in advance). 9:30 pm, Jalepy 1315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront; (718) 395-3214; www.jalepy.biz.

MON, MAY 10

Hot stuff: Tickets are now on sale the Ringling Bros. and Bar-num & Bailey summer one-ring circus, "Illusionation," which opens on June 15 in Coney Island. Kung Fu King is just one of the performers. (Yes, there will be elephants!)

BLOCK PARTY: Featuring the Brooklyn Steppers Marching Band, Soul Tigers, Jamel Gaines Creative Arts & Central branch Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope; (718) 230-2100.

DANCE, "RUN UP WALLS": 3 pm and 7 pm, See Friday, May 7.

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: Selections from Mozart, Mendelssohn and Shostakovich featuring Salome traditional Divadel instruments: trumpet, bano, tuba and clarinet. Free. 1 pm, Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope; (718) 230-2100.

MUSIC, THE DIXIE RASCALS: Musicians perform in period costume on

CIVIC CALENDAR
MON, MAY 10
Community Board 10, Traffic and Transportation meeting with the Department of Transportation. 7:30 pm, 299 1301 Fort Hamilton Pkwy. at 73rd Street in Bay Ridge; (718) 745-4827.

TUES, MAY 11
Community Board 11, Full board meeting. 6:30 pm, Swinging 60's Senior Citizens Center 211 Amble St. at Manhattan Avenue in Williamsburg; (718) 389-0009; www.cb11brooklyn.org.

WED, MAY 12
Community Board 2, Full board meeting. 6:30 pm, Community Board 2 office 1350 Bay St. between Wiloughby Street and Myrtle Avenue in Downtown; (718) 596-5410.

THURS, MAY 13
Community Board 10 Senior Issues, Housing and Health and Welfare Committee. Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm, Community Board 10 office 835 Graham Ave. between Frost and Richardson streets in Williamsburg.

FRI, MAY 14

Chamber Orchestra 545 (540 seniors, \$20 students), 8 pm, Barge music and music legend Danny Kalb will bring his awesome sound to Two Boots — a perfect venue for the crooner's blues and rock. Kalb started the groundbreaking Blues Project in the 1960s, which established the quintessential psychedelic-blues-folk sound — and now he lives right next door in Park Slope. After the gig, ask Kalb about the time Bob Dylan slept on his couch.

MUSIC, ORAN ETKIN: 8 pm, Barbies 176 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope; (718) 965-9177; www.barbiesbrooklyn.com.

MUSIC, CARE BEARS ON FIRE: 8 pm, 1 Made An Art Gallery 53 Richards St. near Commerce Street in Red Hook; www.madeanart.com.

MUSIC, M SHANGHAI STRING BAND: 9 pm, Jalepy 1315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront; (718) 395-3214; www.jalepy.biz.

MUSIC, MARY LOU WILLIAMS TRIBUTE: Featuring Calvin Smith, \$25 (\$20 in advance), 9 and 10:30 pm, Sitar Place 156 Nostrand Ave. at Jefferson Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant; (718) 398-1766; www.sitarplace.org.

MUSIC, BORIS KOZLOV TRIO: 10:30 pm, Puppert's Jazz Bar 481 Fifth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope; (718) 499-2622; www.puppertsjazz.com.

MUSIC, JEFF LONDON: Folk music. 10 pm, Pete's Candy Store 709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg; (718) 302-3770; www.petescandystore.com.

MUSIC, CASAVETTES: 10 pm, Pete's Candy Store 709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg; (718) 302-3770; www.petescandystore.com.

MUSIC, JOSE CONDE: Fusion elements of Latin music, jazz, funk and rock. 10 pm, Barbies 176 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope; (718) 965-9177; www.barbiesbrooklyn.com.

MUSIC, THE DEBILITATORS: Melding bluesgrass, folk, and indie, and punk into their own eclectic sound. \$10, 10:30 pm, Jalepy 1315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront; (718) 395-3214; www.jalepy.biz.

DANCE, FLOATING KABARETT: A night of burlesque, and dance by Jenny Rocha and Her Painted Ladies. 10:30 pm, Galapagos Art Space 16 Man St. at Water Street in DUMBO; (718) 222-4500; www.galapagosartspace.com.

MUSIC, DALE CHASE GROUP: \$7 Midtown-3 am, Puppert's Jazz Bar 481 Fifth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope; (718) 499-2622; www.puppertsjazz.com.

http://

Find lots more listings online at BrooklynPaper.com/Events

See 9 DAYS on page 7

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Family size: DUMBO designer April Hannah makes kids' furniture that's mom-friendly, too.

'Designs' on the young

Furniture for the domestic set at BKLYN Designs

By Joe Maniscalco
for The Brooklyn Paper

BKLYN Designs, the ne plus ultra of uber-hip-contemporary furnishings, has been known for many things over its last eight years, but family-friendly hasn't exactly been one of them.

The annual design showcase still isn't like shopping at IKEA, but this year, the borough-centric display of contemporary furnishings and accessories appears to

be making a concerted effort to appeal to a more domestic demographic.

Some designers are even featuring items specifically for children.

Kids figure largely in the work of April Hannah, a DUMBO designer who says her pieces were inspired by her desire to share playtime with her 6-year-old son.

"Most kids' furniture is marketed to zero- to 3-year-olds," she said. "You're really limited in your choices.

You're either stuck with a table that's too small for parents to sit at, or not enough

house from May 7 through 9, this year's show even includes a specially designed Kids' Lounge exclusively devoted to fun and functional children's furnishings.

Of course, some designers aren't featuring kid-friendly pieces at all, but are confident that BKLYN Designs still has broad—even international—appeal, said

house from May 7 through 9, this year's show even includes a specially designed Kids' Lounge exclusively devoted to fun and functional children's furnishings.

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Andre Joyau makes a nice chair. See it at BKLYN Designs.

Karen Auster, organizer of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce event.

"This show attracts de-

sign enthusiasts and first-time homebuyers," she said. "It's high-end design, not high-end prices."

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

SALES AND MARKETS

PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET: Brooklyn's answer to Union Square. 9 am-4 pm. Grand Army Plaza (Union Street and Flatbush Avenue in Park Slope). (212) 788-7000, compcorp.com.

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: Free. 9 am-3 pm. PS 321 schoolyard (Seventh Avenue and First Street in Park Slope). www.parkslopeflea.com.

PROSPECT PARK CRAFTS FAIR: More than 50 artists and craftspeople at this pre-Mothers Day event. Free. 10 am-4 pm. Barlet Pritchard Square (15th Street and Prospect Park West in Park Slope). (718) 986-8415, parkslopecrafts.blogspot.com.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Free. Noon-8 pm. Artists and Fleas (129 N. Sixth St. between Bedford Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg). www.artistsandfleas.com.

OTHER

BKLYN DESIGNS: 10 am-5 pm. See Friday, May 7.

MOTHERS DAY CELEBRATION: Free. 11 am-3 pm. My Time Inc. (1312 East 84 Street in Brooklyn). (718) 251-5257.

NATURE WORKSHOP/HIKE: Learn about invertebrates. Free. 11 am. Salt Marsh Nature Center (3302 Avenue J in Marine Park). (718) 421-2021.

MOTHERS DAY CRAFT FAIR: Make a decoupage for Mom. \$20. 1-2:30 pm. Brooklyn Craft Farm (160 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues, Studio 208 in Gowanus). (646) 450-FAIR, www.brooklyncraftfarm.com.

SHEEP SHEARING DAY: Annual wool event with shearing at 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm. Prospect Park Zoo (450 Flatbush Ave. between Grand Army Plaza and Em-

pire Boulevard in Prospect Park). (718) 399-7339.

FILM, "RULES OF THE GAME": As part of a Jean Renoir retrospective. \$12 (\$8 members). 2, 4:30, 6:50 and 9:15 pm. BAM Rose Cinema (50 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). (718) 636-4129, www.bam.org.

READING: Featuring Chris Leo, RM O'Brien, Eric Paul and Allan Weiss. 7:30 pm. Word (126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint). (718) 383-0096, wordbrooklyn.wordpress.com.

FILM, DOCUMENTARY, "GOOD FORTUNE": Explores how international efforts to alleviate poverty in Africa may be undermining the very communities they aim to benefit. \$7. 7:30 pm. Union Docs (222 Union Ave. in Greenpoint). (718) 625-0081, www.brooklynartscouncil.org/documents/1445.

SUN, MAY 9

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

MOTHER'S DAY SK: \$25. 8 am. Prospect Park Zoo (450 Flatbush Ave. between Grand Army Plaza and Em-

pire Boulevard in Prospect Park). (718) 399-7339, www.prospectparkzoo.com.

FIFTH ANNUAL SPRING FUNG: Mother's Day event featuring Audra, the children's book author/illustrator Betsy Lewis, face painters, special eco-friendly arts and crafts activity, and more. Free. 10:30 am-1 pm. Brooklyn Bridge Park (Pier 1, adjacent to Furman Street in DUMBO). (718) 802-0663, www.brooklynbridgepark.org.

PERFORMANCE

DANCE, "LE CIRQUE FÉROCE [THE FAIRY CIRCUS]": 2 pm and 5 pm. See Saturday, May 8.

MUSIC, JAZZ IMPROV: Part of the "Jazz in the Cellar" series. \$7 adults, \$3 kids. 3 pm. Queen of All Saints Roman Catholic Church. See 9 DAYS on page 8.

BROOKLYN WATERFRONT ARTISTS COALITION

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 7

300 Vanderbilt Ave. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 638-7625, www.casac.org

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CON. CERT: 3 pm. See Saturday, May 8.

MUSIC, CLASSICAL INTERLUDE. Selections from Schumann and Chopin. Free. 4 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

MUSIC, CHOPIN'S 20TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT. Presented by the Brooklyn Conservatory. Free. 5 pm. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music (58 Seventh Ave. between St. Johns and Lincoln places in Park Slope, (718) 622-3300, www.bcom.org).

DANCE, "RUN UP WALLS". 3 pm. See Friday, May 7.

MUSIC, LES CHAUS LAPINS. French songs of the 1920s-1960s. \$10. 8 pm. Jalopy (315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214, www.jalopy.biz).

MUSIC, STEPHANE WREMBEL. Combines traditional Django repertoire with gypsy swing re-interpretations of standards. 7 pm. Barbes (376 Ninth St. at South Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, www.wrembel.com).

MUSIC, CYNTHIA SAYER. Her eclectic repertoire ranges from swing to tango, classical and more. \$10. 8:30 pm. Jalopy (315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214, www.jalopy.biz).

SALES AND MARKETS PS 321 FLEA MARKET: 9 am-5 pm. See Saturday, May 8.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS/ Noon-8 pm. See Saturday, May 8.

FARMERS MARKET: Free. 11 am-5 pm. L.J. Byrne Park (Fifth Avenue and Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

OTHER

TALK, NURTURER'S FESTIVAL WITH THE CHILDREN'S SUNDAY ASSEMBLY. Celebrate nurturing in this intergenerational spring celebration honoring our daily care of one another and of "the big world." Earth. Free. 11 am-12:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

SHEEP SHEARING: See Saturday, May 8.

TALK, "AWAKENED BY THE MOON" – MARGARET WISE BROWN. The life and work of Greenpoint native Margaret Wise Brown. Free. 1:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

BKLYN DESIGNS: See Friday, May 7.

PROJECT OVERFLOW BENEFIT. An evening of music, dance and fashion. \$20 for students. 8 pm. Galapagos Art Space (16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500, www.galapagosartspace.com).

MON, MAY 10

FILM, MOVIE MANDOS. Free popcorn all night. 7:30 pm. Kumbia Theater (9224 Third Ave. at 92nd Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-7999, www.de-liaisons.com).

THEATER, THE PAPER BAG PLAYERS' "GREAT MUMMY ADVENTURE." Take an expedition to the land of pharaohs in search of a mysterious mummy named Shirley. 10:30 am and 12:30 pm. Kumbia Theater at Long Island University (Delia and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1604, www.brooklyn.liu.edu/KumbiaTheater).

FILM, "THE ELUSIVE CORPORAAT." As part of a Jean Renoir retrospective. \$12 (58 members). 2:30 and 5:50 pm. B.A.M. Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129, www.bam.org).

MUSIC, JIM CAMPLONGO AND ADAM LEE. 7 pm. Barbes (376 Ninth St. at South Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, www.wrembel.com).

MUSIC, STRANGE POWERS. An intimate portrait of songwriter Stephen Merritt and his band the Magnetic Fields. \$10. 7:30 pm. The Bell House (445 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-4501, www.thebellhouse.org).

MUSIC, TONY SCHERR AND SPECIAL GUESTS. Jazz. \$5. 9 pm. Jalopy (315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214, www.jalopy.biz).

MUSIC, OPEN JAM SESSION. Free. 7:30 pm. Kumbia Theater (9224 Third Ave. at 92nd Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-7999, www.de-liaisons.com).

MUSIC, GARY MORGAN. Funk-influenced music. \$5 donation. 9 and 10:30 pm. Tea Lounge (87 Union St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 789-2762, www.tealounge.org).

MUSIC, CHICHA LIBRE. Mix of Latin rhythms, surf music and psychedelic pop. 9:30 pm. Barbes (376 Ninth St. at South Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, www.brooklyn.liu.edu/KumbiaTheater).

TUES, MAY 11

THEATER, THE PAPER BAG PLAYERS' "GREAT MUMMY ADVENTURE." Take an expedition to the land of pharaohs in search of a mysterious mummy named Shirley. 10:30 am and 12:30 pm. See Monday, May 10.

FILM, "PORTRAIT OF MICHELLE SMITH BY JEAN RENOIR." As part of a Jean Renoir retrospective. \$12 (58 members). 4:30, 6:50 and 9:15 pm. B.A.M. Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129, www.bam.org).

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WED, MAY 12

FILM, "ANIMATIONS FROM BROOKLYN." \$12 (58 members). \$9 seniors and students. 6:50 and 9:15 pm. B.A.M. Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129, www.bam.org).

MUSIC, "LIQUID TIME PIECES." Performed by an all-teenage ensemble. 8 pm. Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 257-4816, www.brooklyn-lyceum.com).

MUSIC, ROOTS AND RUCKUS. Weekly American folk showcase. \$5. 9 pm. Jalopy (315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214, www.jalopy.biz).

MUSIC, BURN JOHNSON BAND. Free. 9 pm. B.A.M. Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 230-4100, www.bam.org).

MUSIC, DANNY KALB'S "QUARTER EXPLOSION." Blues legend performs with Randy Johnston and Marc Daigle. 10 pm. Two Boots (514 Second St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 499-3253).

THURS, MAY 13

READING, KATE ROCK, LAND AND ROSE SHEPHERD. Authors of "Falling

is Like This" and "Love is a Mistake," respectively. 7:30 pm. Word (126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096, wordbrooklyn-press.com).

READING, ECKY MOMS. Part of the Brooklyn Reading Works series. 8 pm. Old Stone House (336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195, www.theold-stonehouse.org).

MUSIC, BRAZILIAN JAZZ. Night: With The Jazz Simas Trio. \$20 (50 seniors). \$10 students. 8 pm. Bargemus (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083, www.bargemus.org).

FRI, MAY 14

BKLYN MADE: A showcase of some of the borough's finest food and beverage manufacturers. Free. Noon-5 pm. Brooklyn Borough Hall (209 Joralemon St. at Third Street in Downtown, (718) 875-1000 ext. 132).

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There's no place like home for patients with kidney failure

By Robert Rosenblatt

David Miller lives life to its fullest. A 52-year-old Brooklynite, father of 6, grandfather of 8, husband, and important family member to countless others, David looks forward to each and every day. There is just one aspect of his life that was not quite perfect. Three years ago he lost his kidney function and was "sentenced" to dialysis treatment for the rest of his life. Having no other option, he accepted his new routine of four hours of dialysis, three times a week at a dialysis center. Despite the life-altering changes, David was the perfect patient. Yet he felt that dialysis was taking a toll on his physical condition. "Dialysis kept me alive but I felt like a rag," David said. "I was lucky if I made it home after the treatments without falling on my face." He found he could no longer work a full-time job due to the time constraints his dialysis schedule imposed, plus the hours it took to recover after each session. He turned to his doctor for help.

"David came to our unit like so many other patients. He was searching for alternatives that would offer freedom and flexibility," said Albert Matalon, M.D., Director of Home Dialysis at the Lower Manhattan Dialysis Center. A Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine and Nephrology at NYU Medical Center, Dr. Matalon was sensitive to David's predicament and saw the need to suggest other options. He worked with his professional team to provide a choice that would enable patients like David to benefit from a better life-style.

Home hemodialysis was the perfect solution. Patients dialyze in the comfort and privacy of their own home, enjoy more time for personal and family life, enjoy a less restrictive diet, have better control of blood pressure and fluid overload, require fewer medications, and have the freedom and flexibility to travel. Additionally, since home dialysis uses short treatments performed almost every day, rather than intermittent, long sessions three times weekly in dialysis centers, it is much gentler and better tolerated than conventional dialysis.

Lower Manhattan Dialysis Center is the only facility in southern Manhattan to offer this alternative treatment. The equipment is the first truly portable



hemodialysis machine approved by the FDA. "After extensive training for 2-4 weeks, our patients go home with a small, portable machine. They work together with a home partner who participates in the treatments. And we are always available 24/7, should they need further assistance," explained Betty Dial, RN, Nursing Director of Home Dialysis. "I work closely with patients and their partners to provide the knowledge and confidence for a smooth transition to home treatments."

David's wife, Karen, agrees. "Our experience with Betty has been phenomenal. Her training has been very precise, and her caring and concern for us didn't stop at the end of the training session. We still have a warm relationship with Betty."

In recent years, home hemodialysis has changed the quality of life for patients like David. A review of over one million dialysis treatments concluded that survival and transplantation rates are notably higher in patients who utilize daily home hemodialysis versus conventional dialysis three times a week. It has also been shown to enhance restful sleep, nutrition, energy and overall quality of life, along with reductions in blood pressure, heart strain, sleep apnea, and anemia as compared to conventional dialysis.

For dialysis, there truly is no place like home! Thanks to advances in medicine, David is back to working full-time every day. He has dialysis over dinner at night, or whatever time of day is most convenient. He and his wife Karen are enjoying their time together, and planning to take a trip to Florida in the upcoming weeks. "I love having my day back!" David proclaims. "My day is my day again!"

Lower Manhattan Dialysis Center is located at 333E 54th Street and accepts patients from throughout the Tri-State area. For further information please call 212-889-1082 and ask for Betty Dial, RN, or visit their website HomeDialysisNY.com and accepts patients from throughout the Tri-State area. For further information please call 212-889-1082 and ask for Betty Dial, RN, or visit their website HomeDialysisNY.com.

Port Greene, (718) 636-4129, www.bam.org).

MUSIC, COMEDY NIGHT. Hosted by John Michael. Free. 6-8 pm. Puppet's

Gowanus, (718) 643-4501, www.thebellhouse.org).

MUSIC, TONY SCHERR AND SPECIAL GUESTS. Jazz. \$5. 9 pm. Jalopy (315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214, www.jalopy.biz).

MUSIC, OPEN JAM SESSION. Free. 7:30 pm. Kumbia Theater (9224 Third Ave. at 92nd Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-7999, www.de-liaisons.com).

MUSIC, GARY MORGAN. Funk-influenced music. \$5 donation. 9 and 10:30 pm. Tea Lounge (87 Union St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 789-2762, www.tealounge.org).

MUSIC, CHICHA LIBRE. Mix of Latin rhythms, surf music and psychedelic pop. 9:30 pm. Barbes (376 Ninth St. at South Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, www.brooklyn.liu.edu/KumbiaTheater).

TUES, MAY 11

THEATER, THE PAPER BAG PLAYERS' "GREAT MUMMY ADVENTURE." Take an expedition to the land of pharaohs in search of a mysterious mummy named Shirley. 10:30 am and 12:30 pm. See Monday, May 10.

FILM, "PORTRAIT OF MICHELLE SMITH BY JEAN RENOIR." As part of a Jean Renoir retrospective. \$12 (58 members). 4:30, 6:50 and 9:15 pm. B.A.M. Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129, www.bam.org).

MUSIC, JIM CAMPLONGO AND ADAM LEE. 7 pm. Barbes (376 Ninth St. at South Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, www.wrembel.com).

MUSIC, STRANGE POWERS. An intimate portrait of songwriter Stephen Merritt and his band the Magnetic Fields. \$10. 7:30 pm. The Bell House (445 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-4501, www.thebellhouse.org).

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WED, MAY 12

FILM, "ANIMATIONS FROM BROOKLYN." \$12 (58 members). \$9 seniors and students. 6:50 and 9:15 pm. B.A.M. Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129, www.bam.org).

MUSIC, "LIQUID TIME PIECES." Performed by an all-teenage ensemble. 8 pm. Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 257-4816, www.brooklyn-lyceum.com).

MUSIC, ROOTS AND RUCKUS. Weekly American folk showcase. \$5. 9 pm. Jalopy (315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214, www.jalopy.biz).

MUSIC, BURN JOHNSON BAND. Free. 9 pm. B.A.M. Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 230-4100, www.bam.org).

MUSIC, DANNY KALB'S "QUARTER EXPLOSION." Blues legend performs with Randy Johnston and Marc Daigle. 10 pm. Two Boots (514 Second St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 499-3253).

THURS, MAY 13

READING, KATE ROCK, LAND AND ROSE SHEPHERD. Authors of "Falling

is Like This" and "Love is a Mistake," respectively. 7:30 pm. Word (126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096, wordbrooklyn-press.com).

READING, ECKY MOMS. Part of the Brooklyn Reading Works series. 8 pm. Old Stone House (336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195, www.theold-stonehouse.org).

MUSIC, BRAZILIAN JAZZ. Night: With The Jazz Simas Trio. \$20 (50 seniors). \$10 students. 8 pm. Bargemus (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083, www.bargemus.org).

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Roto-rocker: James "Roto" Rotondi brought down the house with his Syd Barrett tribute last month. He'll pull out entirely different stops next week.

Roto rooter

'Roto' Rotondi at Pete's next week

Receiving the fifty old washout in seclusion isn't everyone's cup of tea. But one string-slanting Brooklynite—who's already known for several of his own musical ventures—is well on his way.

James "Roto" Rotondi, the Williamsburg guitarist known for multiple stints with French band Air in the early aughts, paid tribute in March to quite possibly the most touted, ragged recluses of them all: Syd Barrett, one of the founders (and first drop-outs) of Pink Floyd.

"I think the romanticism of rock and pop gave me the affinity for lost souls like Syd," Rotondi told us before a March show at Pete's Candy Store in Williamsburg.

"They're people who followed their own course, but felt through the cracks. I wish to identify with these loners."

Roto, 40, did just that at the bar, covering Barrett's solitary yet shocking acid-

infused debut with Pink Floyd through the "Piper At the Gates of Dawn" record, a happy-go-lucky look at Barrett's psychedelic journey that would last him a year.

Rotondi's heart on his sleeve. It strays from any band or cover group he's been a part of, but he notes that each previous band has its own small influence on the record.

Roto said he isn't planning on going nuts, grabbing a 12-pack and staying home for eternity any time soon, like many of his predecessors. On the contrary, he'll be out and about in Brooklyn all summer.

"I'll be trying to create some real, one-of-a-kind music experiences here," Roto said. "It's rock at its finest."

Pete's Candy Store 709 Lorimer St. between Richardson and Frost streets in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770; May 13, 11 pm. Free.

every player who does that has their little box where they keep their own stuff," Roto said of his album.

The result is a laid-back, folk-laden pop album with Roto's heart on his sleeve. It strays from any band or cover group he's been a part of, but he notes that each previous band has its own small influence on the record.

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Easy does it

Alt-country act Phosphorescent channels '70s rock on new album

By Meredith Deliso
The Brooklyn Paper

Matthew Houck just might have been born in the wrong decade.

The newest album from Houck, 30, and his alt-country band, Phosphorescent—"Here's to Taking It Easy"—takes a nod from an earlier era, with touchstones including 1970s-era Bob Dylan, Rolling Stones, Ronnie Wood and Steve Forbert records.

"I definitely wanted to try straight-forward of record as I could make," said Houck, who got on the indie map in 2007 with "Pride," and then again two years later with "To Willie."

The result is a laid-back, folk-laden pop album with Roto's heart on his sleeve. It strays from any band or cover group he's been a part of, but he notes that each previous band has its own small influence on the record.

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classic rock record, I think of the '70s era. Records from that period all have a weird sound to them that makes them really big and warm. I was aiming for that when I was making this thing."

Things start off big thanks to some rickety horns on the jaunty "It's Hard to Be Humble (When You're From Ft. Alabama)." Houck's not kidding about that humility, or lack thereof—the name of his last album of original material, remember, was "Pride."

After that initial bang, the rest of the disc is laid-back, countrified rock, such as the hooting "I Don't Care if There's Cursing" and the lovely "Nothing Was Stolen (Love Me Foolishly)." There are also remnants of the darker, gothic "Pride," such as in the chanting, incomprehensible, almost religious experience of "Hey, Me I'm Light."

The majority of the nine-track album, though, out on May 11, deals with the usual rock inspiration—women. In "The Memento Parade," a "straight-forward narrative song" about a failed relationship, the Coney Island spectacle serves as a distraction to the lovelorn protagonist Nelson covers. This month, the band releases "Here's to Taking It Easy." But to really get a sense of what it's all about, we leave that to our exclusive Algorithm.

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Light up: Matthew Houck heads up the alt-country band Phosphorescent, which celebrates the release of its new album, "Here's to Taking It Easy," on May 11 at Union Pool.

of the song. "I love the topless women, man," said Houck of his title inspiration. "That's always a delight."

For his album release, Houck turns to a smaller venue—Williamsburg's Union Pool—for an intimate show on May 11 with his band, comprised of members of Brooklyn's Virgin Forest, who joined Houck on the road a couple years back and never left.

Until now, Houck has been wary of playing the new tracks live—the band just got off a three-month tour with David Gray—instead wanting to keep things fresh. The does get bored, Houck should have new songs soon, as the musician is always listening to his muse. And after tackling Willie and now rock, he's ready for something new.

"I'm already into a bunch of new songs, taking a spin in a new direction," said Houck. "I'm looking forward to being able to push some of those boundaries."

Let's see what decade it takes him to next.

Let's see what decade it takes him to next.

Let's see what decade it takes him to next.

Let's see what decade it takes him to next.

Let's see what decade it takes him to next.

Let's see what decade it takes him to next.

OUR OPINION

No to the bike lane

As cyclists, we have been genuinely impressed by the efforts of the Department of Transportation to encourage bike riding and commuting in the city. No other agency has been as pro-active in its work, and few have shown as much forthright in devising innovative solutions to long-standing problems.

But the Prospect Park West bike lane is just a bad idea.

As part of its reasonable assault on Park Slope's major quality of life problem—speeding on three-lane Prospect Park West—the agency seeks to install a two-way bike path along the eastern edge of the boulevard, protected by a row of parked cars.

To accommodate and protect the cyclists, one lane of car traffic would have to be removed.

The city says that such a configuration, which already exists along Kent Avenue in Williamsburg, would make Prospect Park West safer for everyone. But we're not convinced. Unlike Kent

Prospect Park West already has a great bike lane: It's called Prospect Park. The city just needs to use it better.

Avenue, Prospect Park West has significant pedestrian traffic that will have to cross that bike lane. Now, instead of merely looking out for speeding car traffic from the north, pedestrians will have to be alert for bike traffic zipping from the south.

If the issue was simply traffic-calming along Prospect Park West, the city already has many old-fashioned tools at its disposal: altering traffic light timing, enforcing speed limits better, narrowing car lanes, or even making Prospect Park West two-way.

Instead, the agency is using an elephant gun to take down a mouse—and, in doing so, ignored some of the realities about life on Brooklyn's version of Central Park West.

Trucks making deliveries and soccer moms and dads dropping off their charges for sporting events often double-park on the stretch. With three full lanes, drivers can easily get around the blockage. But eliminating one lane for cars will cause congestion—and inflammation, rather than calm, traffic.

And there's something else that has been lost in this whole debate: Prospect Park West already has a great bike lane. It's called Prospect Park.

There's no reason why the Department of Transportation can't simply reconfigure the existing roadway inside the park to allow cyclists to circulate in both directions, thereby achieving the north-south bike flow that the agency is hoping to create.

If it wants to be more radical, the agency could simply ban car traffic in the park. Such a move would allow cyclists to ride from Kensington to Grand Army Plaza inside the greatest protected bike lane of all: Prospect Park.

ALL DRAWN OUT



Chris Ware

LETTERS

Christians are hot and bothered over our caption

To the editor,

Your recent article about Walter, the sick pit bull puppy was offensive to Christians ("Walter is one sick puppy," April 23). In the caption under the photo, you wrote, "Walter, a pit bull puppy, was discovered on Easter Sunday in Park Slope, but unlike the religious figure who allegedly rose on that day, he may not be resurrected without your help."

The verbiage was only necessary if it was part of a design to deliberately disrespect the beliefs of the thousands of Christians living and worshipping the risen Lord Jesus Christ within the scope of

your circulation.

Your use of these words during the highest Christian Holy Days is a deliberate slap in the face to many of your readers.

As a paper, as an editor, as a writer, you have the rights—granted to you under God, and through the Constitution of this great country—to state your opinion. But as a paper, as an editor, as a writer, you should also somehow manage to have the decency to hold your personal opinions and beliefs at bay.

Using your power as a tool to degrade any people is a cowardly authoritarian act. Those words are damaging and apparently are built around an agenda. Words like these were probably seen in many publications across Europe in the 1930s, the plan then was probably very similar to yours, the results were very devastating, very horrible.

Apparently, someone in your organization, besides "Walter," is a very sick (and dangerous) puppy!

Mike Baker, Park Slope

To the editor,
I picked up a copy of The

Brooklyn Paper at the Key Food and was quite disturbed in reading the caption under a picture of an injured pit bull.

I like animals as much as the next person, but as a Christian, I take offense against your statement under the picture.

I don't understand how you can make a comparison between Walter's situation and Jesus Christ in your caption, that Walter was "discovered on Easter Sunday in Park Slope"—but unlike the religious figure who allegedly rose that day, he may not be resurrected without your help!

You could have used a better analogy that does not offend any one group of people. I strongly feel that you owe your readers an apology many of them being Christians.

Name and address withheld

Editor's note: There are many people who do not believe that Christ rose from the dead, so we use the term "allegedly" to describe the event in order to avoid offending non-believers. No offense was intended toward the many people who believe in Christ's resurrection.

'Park' fix?

To the editor,

Compromise is what made America great, although lately the art of compromise in America seems dead.

No one I know really wants residential development in Brooklyn Bridge Park, but most people want a Brooklyn Bridge Park that is self-supporting for maintenance, and that doesn't rely on the whim and caprice of the government budget process ("Critics: City's Brooklyn Bridge Park will still include housing," online, April 27).

People keep complaining about residential development in Brooklyn Bridge Park but offer no realistic alternative. This isn't Manhattan where corporate entities support Bryant Park and Central park, and where the public gets excluded more often than people like to admit. At times, that support has dried up too. The City can't maintain the parks it currently has. Look at the stories you keep reporting about Prospect Park.

While residential development in the Brooklyn Bridge Park may not be my first choice, I have seen no responsible alternative. Taking money from outside the park and dedicating it to the Brooklyn Bridge Park just takes money away from schools, fire and police.

The current plan uses less than 10 percent of the parks area for residential development. So people can slap themselves on the back and say it's great that the residential development is still in play, but all that does is postpone the park being built more than before. The City's agreement to put money into the park requires that this be resolved before the money is put in, so we can be assured of another round of delay as people sit on their hands and just say no without a viable alternative.

Sid Meyer, Boerum Hill
Get real, Parks!

To the editor,

You are so right on the money when you stated in your article "Dead dog found in Prospect Park's 'Lake of Death,'" online, April 23, "If murder, blood, arson and death was stalking Central Park, it would be an international outrage, but in Prospect Park? Nothing."

Prospect Park should be renamed "Lawless Park," and, once again, the Park spokesman Eugene Patron has given us another of his lame-brained excuses for the decomposed dog found in the pond. As a daily park visitor myself, I also know that particular side of the pond does not freeze over in the winter time, just as Ed Bahlman has stated in the article.

What is Eugene Patron kidding? There are no tests done even for the park's dead animals, get real and stop feeding us more of your lies, and enough of your ineptitudes.

What the park's dead animal gets is a black trash bag, and it's so shocking to know the official who is supposed to work for the park cares so little for the park and its abundant wildlife.

Mr. Bahlman, if you ever decide to run for the Park's spokesman position, you definitely have my vote!

Susan Yuen, Kensington

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Susan Yuen, Kensington

Slope history

To the editor,

The deteriorating brownstones on Garfield Place, as well as the neglected and uninhabited brownstones on Third Street and Berkeley Place, provide reasons why it is imperative to expand the Park Slope Historic District ("Brownstone but-let's Neighbors want to save decrepit building—from its owner," online, April 28). Besides protecting the community from irresponsible real estate developers, being within a historic district protects residents from irresponsible owners of existing buildings.

If the Park Slope Historic District's borders were extended so that the three uninhabited brownstones were within the district, the owners of the three buildings could be forced to prevent their brownstones from deteriorating further.

According to The Landmarks Preservation Commission Website, "The owner of a landmarked building is responsible for maintaining the property in 'good repair.'" Those who violate this regulation can be fined and/or imprisoned.

John Casson, Park Slope

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BIKES...

Continued from page 1
directional, which encourages northbound cyclists to ride on the wide sidewalk of Prospect Park West — endangering stroller pushers and other park users. As such, many Slopers hailed the city plan.

"Prioritizing biking is a great idea," said Gina Vandi. "You can get through Prospect Park on a bike one way, but the other way is impossible. [Prospect Park West] will be safer."

Supporters came prepared, too. Eric McClure of Park Slope Neighbors, a community group, testified that a survey by the group revealed that at least 85 percent of drivers exceed the speed limit on Prospect Park West,

30 percent of them averaging 40 mph or more.

"It's a dangerous road, and this plan is really going to change that," said McClure.

But lane supporters shared the Community Board 6 Transportation Committee hearing with an equal number of cycling critics, many of them Prospect Park West residents, who grumbled that the city's blueprints are great in theory, but not where the rubber hits the road.

"In the area of Grand Army Plaza, where it's already unfriendly to traffic, why would you want to add more bikes?" said Dan O'Leary, 42-year-old resident of the strip. "When it doesn't work, drivers will be affected."

Things got so bad that the city was called in to test the lake. Scientists said they found no evidence of contamination — though park critics remained suspicious of a cover-up.

But conspiracy theories aside, Zandt — who runs a waste of pictures of piles of trash in the park — said that the park's legitimate achievements should not obscure issues surrounding general upkeep of the park.

The unsettling episodes culminated in a wave of animal deaths, including the demise of John Boy, one of

the park's beloved celebrity swans.

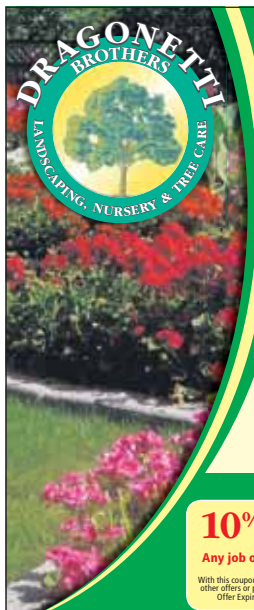
SHAME...

Continued from page 1
thing wrong with the ecosystem."

But there is little doubt that a spotlight has been on the feral conditions in the park like never before. Last month, The Brooklyn Paper broke the story on the "Butcher of Prospect Park," who left behind blood, animal intestines, and chicken heads along the southwestern side of the lake.

At the same time, at least three swaths of reeds were burnt along the edge of the lake in an apparent arson.

The unsettling episodes culminated in a wave of animal deaths, including the demise of John Boy, one of



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